

California

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OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 1968

CALIFORNIA'S OWN  
GARDEN MAGAZINE

Since 1909

# GARDEN



IN THIS ISSUE:  
COMMON AND UNCOMMON PLANTS  
THAT THRIVE IN CALIFORNIA GARDENS  
(Cover Courtesy San Diego Men's Garden Club)



# Floral events . . .

October-November, 1968

## San Diego Floral Association Programs

Third Tuesday, Floral Building, Balboa Park  
Chairman, Mrs. Eugene Cooper

## FLOWER SHOWS

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO, 9TH FALL FLOWER SHOW, "Artistic Impressions." Coronado Woman's Club, 1755 Strand Way. Saturday, November 9, 2-8 p.m./Sunday, November 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FALL IRIS SHOW, November 17, Floral Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.

LA MESA GARDEN CLUB Standard Flower Show and Gift Bazaar, "Christmas is Here Again." Flower arrangements, Horticulture and Table Settings. La Mesa Woman's Club House, 5220 Wilson Ave., La Mesa. Saturday, December 7, from 1-5 p.m., and Sunday, December 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### *Luncheon and Flowers*

"FLOWERS FOR FUN," a Benefit for our *California Garden* magazine, will be held at Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 1968. The charge of \$5.50 per person includes a luxury luncheon and gratuities plus an outstanding program. Four fine flower arrangers will demonstrate styles of arrangement — Mrs. Sadako Oehler, the Oriental; Mrs. John Kirkpatrick, the Traditional; Mrs. John Marx, the Contemporary; and Mrs. Henry Dolezal, the Avant-Garde. Reservations are now being taken by the Chairman, Mrs. Roland Hoyt, at 296-2757.

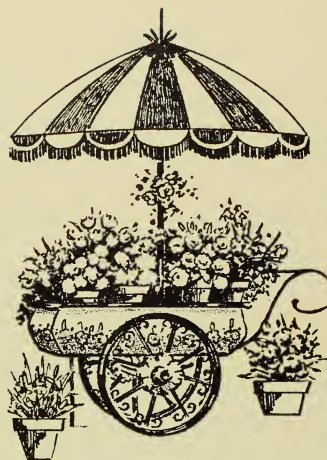
## *Bus Tours*

AUTUMN LEAVES TOUR date will be announced after frost colors leaves.

ENSENADA CHRISTMAS-SHOPPING TOUR will be November 21 (Thursday) and November 23 (Saturday), 1968. \$8.00 with steak or lobster luncheon at El Rey Sol for \$4.00. Buses will leave La Jolla Library at 8:30 a.m. or Balboa Park at 9:00 a.m. and return on Thursday at 6 p.m. and on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

DESCANSO GARDENS AND HOSPITALITY HOUSE TOUR will be December 7 (Saturday) and December 12 (Thursday), 1968. \$5.50 plus \$1.00 for a sack lunch which must be ordered with bus ticket. Leave Balboa Park at 8:30 a.m. or La Jolla Library at 9:00 a.m. and return about 6:00 p.m. You will see the biennial Decorations Show at La Canada plus camellia and historic rose gardens as well as native plants. On Thursday ONLY the tour will visit the home of a lady who sells bases and accessories for flower arrangements.

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# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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October - November, 1968

Vol. 59

No. 5

## The San Diego Floral Association

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### THE COVER

Mrs. Eugene Cooper took this colorful photo of a charming casual corner in the Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. With her customary "eye" for what is just right, she has again caught a scene symbolizing the loveliness of informality in a California garden. The Men's Garden Club made the use of the four-color cover available to us.

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## CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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# Congratulations

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## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

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"MEN WANTED . . . club expanding!" says President Jim Campbell. In honor of their anniversary the Men's Garden Club has provided this issue of *California Garden* with its colorful cover.

This cover, with its inviting, casual flower garden, also serves as an invitation to men who like gardening to join the Men's Garden Club.

Make the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Floral Building, Balboa Park, your monthly evening out!

### From the By-Laws of the Men's Garden Club of San Diego:

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. To create greater interest and the promotion of higher ideals among all garden devotees.
2. Promote and encourage higher garden standards and beautification for Civic, Industrial, and Neighborhood areas.
3. To develop the love of growing plants and flowers in the hearts of children, especially those whose opportunities are limited.
4. Assist in the development of a central Horticultural Area or Garden Center for the combined Garden Clubs of San Diego County.
5. Create a more intensified interest in the beautification of individual and private gardens in each neighborhood.

"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH GARDENING"



# *In Search of Wildflowers*

by Helen D. Carswell



**BLAZING STAR:** *Mentzelia laevicaulis*.  
Photo at top is the entire plant and the lower  
one shows the flower which is so aptly named.

**F**INDING THE ORANGE MARIPOSA LILY, *calocartus kennedyi*, the desert candle, *streptanthus inflatus* and countless other treasures, seemed the ultimate in wildflower thrills out on the Mojave desert, till a recent trip, July 1968, for this "find" was one we could never hope to surpass!

We three mean old gals have been wildflower buffs for almost half a century. Oh, the miles we have gone throughout the years to see gardens and parks, flower shows and garden club meetings, the treks we have taken to the desert, to mountains and valleys!

For several years the headquarters for these safaris has been Leota's week-end desert home. This refuge would in itself make an intriguing book, but suffice it to

say, it has more comforts than home and her ingenious husband is always adding to it to increase its capacity and versatility. Too, he goes up days ahead to "open up," which means hauling a tank of water from a nearby town, stocking up the drinking water jugs from clean, pure springs in the San Gabriel Mountains, making sure the cooler is working, that the feeder stations for the birds and wildlife are all cleaned and well filled. There is no end to the nice things he can think up to arrange. This season he added a bunkhouse that sleeps eight, and added more screens to the house so that the big windows may all be opened wide at night.

Nights in the Mojave are heavenly. As we watch the sun sink behind a weird Joshua tree, hear the last cactus when chirp farewell to the day, watch young rabbits cautiously creep up to partake of the banquet spread out for them, we give a few relaxing yawns and admit, "Home was never like this."

#### The Lure of Study and Exploration

And the days? We have come well stocked with good food, electrical appliances to make cooking efforts a minimum; we write letters, sort color slides, work on stamp albums, read; there is no end to the activities we have planned. We are always well supplied with wildflower books, National Geographics, and Westways.

I often pack some special new book to study, although it at times goes back unopened. We make visits to nearby desert towns, "do" the antique shops, rummage sales, salvage stores, local dumps, thrift sales. Then there are stops at any Post Office we may pass, looking for special issue stamps, for both of my friends are avid philatelists. Yes, all this, plus the rock and wildflower expeditions.

We have often had these absorbing vacations in Spring, when the desert is at its best, and the vast sheet of bloom carpets the landscape, when the yuccas and Joshuas are in bloom; then sage is in its bluest and most fragrant stage. Its tantalizing perfume fills the whole desert.

This was my first July trip to the area and it opened up a whole new world of

study, not only in the desert, but also in the nearby mountains.

#### Identifying Photographs

A few hours of photographing can mean weeks of study identification. First I try to locate each subject in several wildflower books, then verify my findings in Jepson.

While the desert rests after its vast spring display, treks into the San Gabriel Mountains, to the south of our snug hideout were like jaunts to another land, for there is a complete change of flora. Here there were flowers that belong to all seasons, growing together in their mad rush to complete life's cycle before the short mountain summer ended. While there were late lupine, usually associated with early spring in California, its silvery lacy foliage brightening their bed of pine needles, other blooms ranged through the seasons, all the way to goldenrod, *Solidago occidentalis*, just beginning to show its Indian Summer tints.

#### Flower "Finds"

Some of the flowers we found and photographed included: Prickly Poppy or Chicalote, *Argemone platyceras*, *Cleome*, the spider plant, *Cleome lutea*, several Buckwheats, the most conspicuous being the sulphur plant, *Eriogonum umbellatum*, masses of Indian Paint Brush in its true warrior colors, these low growing ones probably *castilleja minima*. Every little rock seemed to shelter a clump of scarlet pentstemon (looking at the pages of pentstemons listed in Jepson, I would hesitate to decide which one), Blazing Star, *Mentzelia laevicaulis*, Virgin's Bower, *Clematis paucifolia*, Milkweed, *Asclepias californica* with delightful perfume, Sierra Thistle, *Cirsium californica* of a delicate pink tint.

#### The Great Discovery

In late afternoon we came to a moist draw where trees and shrubs were festooned with Maiden's Bower, Indian Paint brush grew up through Meadow



Mrs. Carswell and her friends were overwhelmed at their find — *lilium parryi*, the Lemon Lily, long thought to have been eradicated from the mountains wilds.



Rue and every little nook and crevice in the rocks sheltered a clump of Scarlet Bugler. While busy getting close-up shots of the Maiden's Bower, Leota called — well it was hard to explain the tone of her call, but no doubt it was an urgent request to come at once. When I saw what she had found, drank in its fragrance, took several pictures and inhaled its fragrance over and over again, my only thought was "Let us not get too excited over this; if it is what I think it is, it is the FIND of our years of wild-flowering." If *Calocortus kennedyi* gave us the feeling of hitting the jackpot, this was to say the least the Irish Sweepstakes of the wildflower world. When the color slides came back, days of study and cross checking proved it to be none other than the Lemon Lily, *Lilium parryi*, long thought to have been eradicated from the wilds of these mountains.

*Lilium parryi*, one of the world's most beautiful species, is named for one Dr. C. C. Parry who botanized in the San Gabriel Mountains in 1876. Lester Rowntree in her "Hardy Californians" (The MacMillan Company, 1936) describes it: "The bright lemon, funnel-shaped and partly drooping blossoms are faintly spotted with brown, and have brown anthers, petals recurved at the tips and are usually carried five to seven to a stem." We found only three to a stem.

In a 1907 catalog of a California commercial vendor of native bulbs, one who shipped in vast quantities to Europe where *Lilium parryi* and its hybrids are now cultivated plants, he states: "I sent special collectors to the mountains, where it grows, with instructions to spare no trouble to secure the finest bulbs. *L. parryi* is not an easy lily to grow. My collectors

JOSHUA: *Yucca brevifolia*



VIRGIN'S BOWER: *Clematis lasiantha* (also known as "Maiden's Bower")

find it finest along the banks of streams, where the water has made deposits of silt, leaves, charcoal and dead wood. There with its bulbs well above water level, the roots down to perpetual moisture, *L. parryi* can only be found in high alpine meadows,"— this in 1907!

Charles Francis Saunders in his "Western Wildflowers and Their Stories" published in 1933 states: "So outrageously have campers, motorists, and commercial

bulb collectors rifled its (*L. parryi*) haunts, that it now seems to be on the highroad to extermination."

My color slides took nothing from these jewels, precious survivors of a day that has almost disappeared from the face of the earth in this land. Almost as though we were on holy ground, we stepped back on the mountain path and prayed that good Mother Nature will protect this, one of her most beautiful children. ■

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# Pointers on Photographing Flowers

by Betty Mackintosh,

California Garden Photographer



Photos by Betty Mackintosh

**M**OST CALIFORNIA GARDEN readers, we believe, like to take flower pictures in color, so this article will be written with color film in mind. However, since black and white still has its uses, (i. e. far less expensive reproduction), we'll mention any particular differences.

The best of outdoor pictures are those taken early in the morning. They capture the subject at its peak of condition; there is less wind to contend with, particularly near the ocean; and the light is more interesting.

## *An Important Factor—Light*

Since flowers are basically an outdoor subject, *use sunlight or artificial light resembling sunlight*; that is, one obvious source of light supplemented by shadowless light as from the dome of the sky. Color will require more supplementary light from near the camera than black and white does. This can be done with a white card or piece of aluminum foil reflecting light into the subject, and should not be so strong as to throw a shadow. Or a secondary diffused light may be used—with the same precaution.

*Use the direction of the light.* The old standard instruction of having the light come from over the photographer's left shoulder will give you good consistent pictures (exposure being correct), with good color and good roundness. You can do more than this, however.

*Texture of petals or leaves, or on a larger scale, patterns of growth or planting, can be brought out by having the main light source far to one side.* If your light is the sun, you will have to either move the subject or observe the time of day when the light falls across it—probably early morning or late afternoon.

If you want to emphasize the *outline of the subject*, backlighting, with a dark

background gives a rim of light on all edges and a dramatic picture. You do have to reflect or add some light to the front of the subject unless you want a silhouette.

DO NOT take pictures in the middle of the day outdoors. An exception might be a vertical subject. In general, shadows directly under parts of a flower are not good and are difficult to do anything about with supplementary light.

*Close-ups* of flowers may be taken with a diffused light, like an overcast sky, with very pleasing results. In fact, white flowers and highly reflective ones are best done in this way. Some blue flowers will record with a truer color on present-day color film with diffused light.

The diffused light under green netting like that used at the Southern California Expo at Del Mar is very good for flower

photographs. The sunlight comes through, but with less severe shadows and enough diffusion so that fill-in light is generally not necessary. Flowers, with very few exceptions, do not reflect green light, so their colors will rarely be affected. Watch out for non-living material in the picture, however. It probably *will* be green.

If you want to get really sharp pictures, *use a tripod*. Few people can hold a camera absolutely still. With a tripod and no wind you can use a slower speed and smaller diaphragm opening (the larger the F number the smaller the opening) thus increasing the depth of field or sharpness.

## *Check for Distracting Objects*

*Eliminate distracting objects* from the picture area. In taking single flowers or arrangements, a plain background will be the least noticeable. You can use the sky,

*Drops of water enhance a flower photo.*





*Beavertail cactus blossom glows in the morning sunlight.*

*Photo by Betty Mackintosh*

the ground, a stucco or wooden wall, or over-all shadow. If you substitute a blue cardboard for the sky, don't have shadows falling on it. If you use cloth for a background, don't have wrinkles in it. If you are shooting outdoors, avoid having the garden faucet in your picture, and change your viewpoint if the telephone pole across the street seems to be growing out of your subject. Keep vertical lines vertical if you can't avoid them, and keep the horizon horizontal.

#### About Exposure

With Kodacolor or Ektacolor, you have a fair amount of leeway in the matter of exposure, particularly on the over-exposure side. With black and white you can misjudge a little in either direction and still get a good print, but with transparencies or slides, *correct exposure* is a necessity.

If you have a camera with a built-in exposure meter, this should be fairly simple. However, as with a separate exposure meter, you have to learn by experience whether your equipment is based on reading the middle tones or the light tones of a subject. With my equipment, I like to take a meter reading of a Kodak grey card (corresponding to middle tones) placed at the subject, facing the camera. I decide on the slowest

appropriate speed; then, for an average subject, set the F-stop according to the meter reading. If the subject or the background is dark, I increase the exposure by  $\frac{1}{2}$  stop. If either is particularly bright, I decrease the exposure by  $\frac{1}{2}$  stop. With black and white film, I generally decide whether the highlights or the shadows are the most important, and expose in that direction from the average.

If you do not have an exposure meter follow the directions on the printed sheet which comes wrapped around your film. Or, if it is a normal bright sunny day, your exposure for an average subject in the sunlight will be F16 at 1/ASA of the film. For instance, the ASA of Kodachrome II is 25, so your exposure with it in your camera would be F16 at 1/25 of a second. This is an easy rule-of-thumb to remember in case something goes wrong with your meter. Subjects in shadow may require from 2 to 8 times this exposure. Take several shots with different exposures if you want to be sure. A very bright subject, or one surrounded by water or sand, will take a full stop less.

You may only wish to make a record, but if you do capture beauty on film, you will have prolonged its existence and its enjoyment.

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# VINES FOR MANY USES

by Helen Witham

## PHASEOLUS CARACALLA

*Phaseolus caracalla* is a member of that section of Leguminosae which includes Soy Beans, Lima Beans, String Beans, Australian Peas, Mung Beans, and the red-flowered bean often grown as an ornamental — "Scarlet Runner." The commonly used name, "Snail Vine," comes not from its being attractive to snails, but from the peculiar shape of the flowers.

It will twine in lackadaisical fashion, or just push itself up through some other plant, or prop itself behind a drain pipe and go up, up, up. From this latter location the flower sprays hang out and down, producing a most charming effect. Individual flowers are one and a half to two inches across, with oddly coiled and twisted keel petals, whence the name. Buds are also coiled and of a brownish color, rather startling at first glance.

Lacking something to climb over, this *phaseolus* will trail obligingly over the ground, not piling itself into a tangle, but running out straight for yards, along the base of a wall or on a slope. If the area is moist it will root itself here and there but not to the point where it becomes a serious pest. Eradication is not difficult, if it becomes necessary. Although listed as a perennial, which implies dying back each year, here in the State College area it is semi-evergreen. It retains some foliage even in midwinter. The leaves are divided into three dark green pointed leaflets which retain their fresh good looks for a long time.

Note: Aphids don't like them! Not particular as to soil, water, food, or location.

Available in gallon cans, as *P. caracalla*, or *P. gigantea*.

## ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS

**A**NTIGONON is a member of the enormous family *Polygonaceae*. This name

comes from Greek words meaning "many knees" and refers to the swollen joints of many members of the family. The Greek root appears again in the word *Antigonon*, although the enlarged joint is not noticeable in the species. The "*lepto*" part means "fine, thin or delicate" (delicate knees?) It has been suggested that this refers to the kneed or zigzag character of the stems.

The family includes such food plants as buckwheat, dock, rhubarb, and sea-grape; some of our toughest, most unwelcome weeds, such as knotweed; and some delightful ornamentals including *P. Reynoutria* the ground cover with pink

heads of tiny flowers; *Muehlenbeckia* (wire vine); *P. aubertii* (Silver Lace Vine); and our *Antigonon leptopus*.

This charming tropical and subtropical vine is native to the West Indies, Mexico, and southern Baja California, and is grown in warm regions around the world. In the Philippines it is known as Cadena de Amor (Chain of Love); in Mexico, Rosa de Montana, Queen's Wreath, Corallitos, or San Miguelitos. Although white, red and yellow varieties are known, the pink or coral is the only variety seen here, where it is often called "Coral Vine."

It grows from a large tuber which



THE SNAIL VINE: *Phaseolus caracalla*.





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of  
Montana  
(*antigonon*  
*leptopus*)

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

needs several years' growth to support a heavy top. Leaves, three to five inches long, may be described as broad arrow-heads, or long-pointed hearts, with an intricate pattern of light green veins, depressed on the front, raised on the back. Usually they are so set on their one-inch petioles that points hang down, giving the effect of soft green overlapping shingles.

Trailing sprays of flowers appear at ends of shoots for many months of the year, from midsummer to late fall. The appealing rose-pink of the flowers comes not from petals, but from brightly colored sepals, three heart-shaped ones on the outside, two narrow ones inside. These enclose the tiny flower parts by folding into a heart-shaped envelope, or pointed box. The few which are fertilized will hold their color for some time, others will fall, leaving delicately graceful stems, each tipped with a tendril, and pink hearts underfoot. The sprays make charming cut flowers, not long-lasting, but there are always more available.

As to culture, a happy *Antigonon*, with the right soil, hot sun, ample water will grow as much as forty feet in a season. In late fall, or after the first cold spell, when its few worn leaves and uninteresting stems add nothing to the scene, it may be cut back to or near the ground. Warm weather of late March or April will start

it growing prodigiously. A hot west wall suits it fine. One writer suggests planting "where 'Old Sol' beats in unmercifully." It is recommended for desert areas where it dies back to the roots in winter. The many tendrils, from both leaf nodes and flowering racemes, will cling to fences, other plants, or even rough masonry. On a light trellis it makes excellent shade for a west window where its heaviest growth will coincide with the hottest afternoons of the year.

Plants may be grown from seed but are slow to reach blooming size. We suggest buying in a gallon can, and in this case choose an old, tired can to get an older plant. In the can *Antigonon* will not be very attractive, but don't let that stay you. Plant it out and you will be rewarded with "Chains of Love." ■

## BOSTON IVY AND VIRGINIA CREEPER

**I**N CURTIS' BOTANICAL MAGAZINE, published in England in 1909 we read: "Brought into general cultivation in 1867, and distributed as *Ampelopsis veitchii* and *A. quinquefolia*." Today we know these clinging vines as *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (three lobed) and *P. quinquefolia* (five leaved). Curtis says also: "It gives little trouble to grow."

The larger and more rampant of these

two ivies (these are the ivies of Ivy League), is the least useful to the homeowner unless he has a large piece of vertical concrete, say, something roughly the size of a freeway underpass. You may see it used along U.S. 5 in just such locations. Another nice use may be seen in La Mesa where an enormous blank wall backs up to the Chamber of Commerce property. The Boston Ivy makes a colorful background for the trees and shrubs along the parking area. Warning: this vine is *not* for wood or shingles, only for concrete or stucco. It will go right through a wooden wall or roof and appear in the attic or in a kitchen cupboard. Did you ever take a good look at Cabrillo Bridge and wonder how the English Ivy got up there? Old Boston went up first and England followed it.

For a smaller area, there is the more colorful and more manageable *P. t. 'Lowii'*. This has a good deal of red or purple in spring and summer leaves, and better fall color.

Virginia Creeper (*P. quinquefolia*), will be familiar to Easterners, where many a fence, old chicken house, and tree stump is screened by this native plant. Here as well as there it is an unailing source of autumn color, very hard for us to come by otherwise. Also spring and summer color, and winter interest. Its new leaves with their characteristic five leaflets, are rose tinged in spring, shiny green in summer, and translucent scarlet, yellow, flame, or crimson in the fall. Tiny yellow-green flowers appear in summer, with bees, to be followed by blue-black berries on red stems. Even after leaves have fallen the leaf and fruit stalks will continue to give color. If you are so fortunate as to live where migrating bluebirds pass, your berries will disappear one day, but you will have bluebirds to remember, on dreary days!

This vine, also, should be kept from frame houses, and especially from screens—the disc-tipped tendrils will be there forever, once attached. Perhaps its best use is on a rough fence, or on a pergola where main branches will cling tightly, while short streamers will dangle to be swayed by lightest breezes. An uninteresting tree trunk or stump also makes a good base. If you are concerned about all those leaves to rake, take comfort in the fact that they will all come down at once in an October Santa Ana.

All these vines may be grown from cuttings, or purchased in gallon cans. ■



#### New Flower Judges for San Diego

Following successful completion of their work in the recent sessions of the Flower Show Judging School, congratulations are in order for Mrs. Stanley Miller, Mrs. Clarence Benson and Mrs. Lyle Carringer. They are now qualified judges.

—Photo courtesy Union-Tribune Publishing Co.

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### COVER FEATURES MRS. CLARK'S PAINTING

We note with pride and delight that the cover of the current issue of *The Begonian* features a painting, by Alice M. Clark, our former Editor. Old time "Begonian" readers may remember that another of Mrs. Clark's paintings was on the cover of the Anniversary Issue of that magazine in 1950.

Those of you having read the *California Garden* for many years will know that Mrs. Clark is a talented artist. Her wonderful flower sketches have enhanced the pages of our magazine and we hope she will give us that pleasure again now that she has recovered from her illness of last year.



## Two Interesting Plants

### Angelonia Grandiflora

"Why, that's a native of my homeland, Indonesia!" exclaimed Mrs. Brunsting, of the Dutch Garden Flower Shop, as she stooped to catch the delightful fragrance of "*Angelonia grandiflora*." These attractive plants somewhat resemble some of our own natives—sage and penstemon—though more graceful, with lovely little mauve flower faces. The plant is native to South America, resembling *Alonsoa*, the "Mask" flower, belonging to the Figwort Family, Scrophulariaceae, according to the Greystone Garden Encyclopaedia. They have undivided, lanceolate leaves, and average two feet in height. The popular varieties are: *Angelonia grandiflora*, pale mauve and fragrant, and *Angelonia angustifolia*, violet—both suit-

*Angelonia grandiflora*



Close up of *Angelonia grandiflora*

able for cool greenhouse, or garden area; and *Angelonia salicariaefolia*, which must be grown in a hothouse. All may be grown out-of-doors in summer.

**Propagation:** Best compost consists of equal parts loam and leaf mold, with sand added freely (or the equivalent, as you find most suitable). In February, shoots are shortened by 2/3, and when more new shoots are from 1/2 to 2" long, plants may be repotted into larger sizes. They are watered freely in summer—infrequently during winter months.

**Seeds or Cuttings:** *Angelonia* may be treated as an annual by sowing seeds in spring for flowering plants in autumn. In Southern California, where most mild, the plant is perennial.

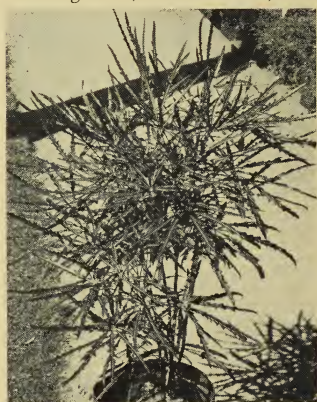
If you have an informal garden, and have not yet met this informal friend, you will enjoy knowing *Angelonia grandiflora*.

—Clem and Dee Runner,  
La Mesa Nursery

### Aralia Elegantissima

The Greeks have a name for it—"Dizygotheca," or False Aralia, better known to us as "*Aralia Elegantissima*." Some gardeners find it hard to believe that the cute little dark green house plant in 2" pots, or those in gallon size, from 1 to 2', can possibly be the same handsome 4 to 5' beauty in garden tub, or focal landscape scheme. One is the juvenile; the other, the parent. It does belong to the Araliaceae family, and versatile is the word. It grows slowly enough to serve as accent plant, whether small or tall, and is strikingly different, with deeply serrated, compound, pendulous leaflets of glossy dark green.

The mature plant is an "eye-catcher," graceful, sometimes with double, or triple branching effect, naked of stem, with



foliage near top of plant. It is used in house or garden, with tropical, or oriental effect, as well as specimen or accent landscape plant. Small containers keep plant compact; they seem to feel more snug, if snug. Good drainage is a requisite, else leaves will discolor and fall. Shade, or part sun, food, mulch and moisture all add up to new beauty.

Best known varieties are: *D. Elegantissima*, from New Hebrides, with pendulous leaflets on white-mottled stalks; *D. Kercheveana*, South Sea Islands—glossy green leaflets, with pale midribs; and *D. Veitchii, gracillima*—(*Aralia gracillima*) from New Caledonia, with narrow white-ribbed leaflets.

Check the little and the large *Aralia Elegantissima*; you'll be pleasantly surprised at the difference.

—Clem and Dee Runner,  
La Mesa Nursery

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## *Camp Fire Girls to distribute San Diego Rose*

by Cherie Price,  
San Diego County Council  
of Campfire Girls

CAMP FIRE GIRLS WILL DISTRIBUTE the recently proclaimed **San Diego Rose** to residents of the city and county to help promote the 200th Anniversary Celebration of San Diego.

Horizon Club members, the senior division of the national youth organization, will take orders for the bare root roses during October and November and will deliver the plants early in January. Some 5,000 bare roots are scheduled to be sold throughout the county by the Horizon Club girls and through local nurseries.

The San Diego Rose came about during the first committee meeting of the 200th Anniversary Committee in 1966 when the then president, Tom Ham, asked his floral committee to "get me a rose."

Chairman Mrs. William E. Betts, Jr. set to work on the project. Along with a representative of the 200th Committee and Mrs. Joseph Kenneally and Mrs. Allan Zukor, Mrs. Betts toured two nurseries in search of an unnamed rose. This group finally settled on a hybrid tea rose developed by Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario.

The San Diego Rose is moderately fragrant and blooms a soft shade of creamy yellow with just a hint of pink on the petal margins. The rose spans five to six inches in diameter and is very double (50 to 55 petals). Parentage of the rose is Helen Traubel x Tiffany. David L. Armstrong is hybridizer. The flower is registered with the American Rose Society.

Once the selection was made, Mrs. Betts, a well-known floral expert in San Diego, called upon the Camp Fire Girls to help with the distribution and promotion of the rose.

"San Diego's Anniversary celebration



*San Diego Rose*

is a most important event," Mrs. Betts explained, "and it is important that all facets of the city's development be displayed during this time. Youth is vital to our history. And, they must be given the opportunity to help celebrate this special fete."

By contacting the executive director of San Diego County Council of Camp Fire Girls, Mrs. James V. Madaffer, details for the distribution were worked out.

Special presentations of San Diego Rose will be made to visiting dignitaries, local organizations and other persons involved in San Diego's 200th Anniversary.

Camp Fire Girls are expected to participate in the Junior Division of the April Rose Show, Balboa Park, by dis-

playing their work with the San Diego Rose.

Order blanks will be distributed by the girls at garden club meetings, in residential areas and in business communities throughout San Diego. Cost of the rose is \$4.00 plus handling. Mailing will be available through Camp Fire Girls should people want to purchase the rose for gift purposes. Further information may be obtained by contacting the local council office at 2067 First Avenue, San Diego, California 92101, 233-3157. Cherie Price is staff coordinator for the rose distribution.

Mrs. Betts will continue to serve as chairman for the Camp Fire Girl's San Diego Rose Committee. ■

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### *San Diego Rose*

A salute to San Diego's 200th Anniversary. Order your bare root rose now. San Diego County Council of Camp Fire Girls will deliver early in January. Cost—\$4.00 plus handling.

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## TIME FOR CONSERVATION

San Diegans seem to be reacting with enthusiasm to the plans for maintaining the grandeur of the world-famed Prado in Balboa Park.

A bond issue to replace one of the principal buildings will be on the November ballot. But the Prado is not everything, though it is the jewel of a magnificent setting.

It is time for all of us to take a look at the park as a whole and make up our minds what we want to do with it. Another crucial decision is rushing upon us.

This is the question of whether to permit the widening of Highway 395, or the Cabrillo Freeway, through the heart of the park.

Looking back now, a mistake probably was made in allowing the development of a main traffic artery through the canyon which winds so beautifully under the towering columns of Cabrillo Bridge.

As an entrance to the city from an interior route, the Cabrillo Freeway is incomparable. But the vast majority of motorists using this route are merely passing from one part of the town to another, and all in a hurry and moving dangerously fast.

Subsequently, other freeway projects have eaten away at the edges of the park.

Now comes a recommendation to make at least one, and perhaps two, major slices through landscaped areas, to provide a wider route for fast-moving traffic.

We like what one of San Diego's real pioneers, T. Claude Ryan, said the other day about the park and the future of San

Diego.

"What was it that attracted me to San Diego? I visited here during World War I," he said, "and thought it was the most beautiful city I had ever seen. It was a city built around a park—Balboa Park.

"We could let this wonderful thing slip through our fingers if we aren't careful."

Balboa Park is an asset few cities possess and gives San Diego an atmosphere that distinguishes the more beautiful cities of the world.

There have been a number of plans for the future development of the park but they always seem subject to the pressures of expediency.

A once-spectacular building is allowed to rot away and a decision is reached to tear it down, even before it has been decided whether or not it should be replaced.

The widening of an existing freeway is proposed, not as a contribution to beautification or the pleasures of the park, but to provide a wider path to get through the park as fast as possible.

There must be other ways to get traffic from one area to another. A straight line may be the shortest way, but also could be the most costly to the values San Diego really wants.

Perhaps it is time to stop trying to figure new uses for the park and its lands and buildings, and haphazardly opening areas for more roads and parking lots, and begin a concerted effort to move the other way—to preserve what is left.

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### Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch Elm disease seems as ubiquitous as backlash in suburbia these days. While it is most unlikely that a microscopic pathogen is responsible for the human disorder, the botanical problem seems to hinge on a fungus, *Ceratostomella ulmi*, apparently carried from tree to tree by such bark beetles as *Scolytus multistriatus* and *Hylurgopinus rufipes*.

There seems to be no ready way to head off the blithering vectors of bias; but, male beetles can be grabbed by the millions with aphrodisiac essences exuded by their girl friends. Like, *trans-verbenol* and 1,5-dimethyl-6, 8-dioxabicyclo [3.2.1] octane from feminine hindguts work like anything to turn on males of some species of *Dendroctonus* (wicked beetles that destroy pine trees). (1)

It surely would be grand if people with the proper competence did the same to seduce the Dutch Elm insects. Some back-lashers might even become a little less irritable if their arboricultural apprehensions were eased.

—*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

(1) Beetle attractant synthesized. Battelle Technical Review, Vol. 17, No. 9-10, 1968, p. 11.

—*Conrad Chyatte*  
Associate Editor

### Thought

Let your life lightly dance on the  
edges of Time like dew on the  
tip of a leaf. Tagore—Gardener

## SHARE YOUR FLOWER AND PLANT IDEAS!

We welcome readers' contributions. If you have an idea for an article you'd like to write, phone the editor, who will be glad to assist you with it. Or, pass on those handy tips we all enjoy running onto; write a letter to the editor if you have something to say that you think our readers would like to hear. We enjoy hearing from you, and welcome new contributors. Write or phone: Mrs. Virginia Norell, Editor, CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine, 9173 Overton Avenue, San Diego, California 92123. 277-8893. Copy is due 30 days before publication. (Tenth of January, March, May, July, September, November.)





Of course we had a little car trouble.

## A Brief Excursion In Mexico With Two Naturalists

by Gilbert A. Voss and  
Clark R. Mahrldt

**A**FTER A YEAR OF preparation we were finally ready to leave on our trip to Mexico.

We had a definite objective for the trip. The authors were prepared to study, in detail, all biological aspects of the country, including the herpetofauna and xerophytic plants.

Ralph Perkins and the authors had converted a 1951 Chevrolet pickup truck into the rugged vehicle we hoped it to be. Four of us left early in the morning on July 18, 1968.

Ralph was to be checking the coastline for possible new surfing localities as well as to maintain the truck in good operating condition. John Sheedy, the fourth of our team, who was to act as our Spanish interpreter, was also familiarizing himself with the various archeological sites.

Upon entering Mexico at Tecate, Baja California, we drove to Sonita, Sonora, where we obtained our necessary permits. We then drove nonstop to Mazatlan, Sinaloa, where we spent a day photographing the surf, digging out our buried truck, and becoming intimately acquainted with the various biting ants of the area.

From Mazatlan it is only a day's drive to Tepic, Nayarit, where the weather was unbearably hot and humid. The unbelievable mosquitos forced us to evacuate our campsite by midnight. We drove to Ixtlan del Rio and slept in the truck. At dawn we visited the classic Nayarit Indian site of Ixtlan.

### Unusual Specimen Collected

Just south of Ixtlan at the Nayarit-Jalisco border we collected a rare form of *Mammillaria scrippsiana*, the same area where Mr. Voss collected this unusual species in 1964.

We finally reached Guadalajara, Jalisco, under the typical weather of the season—rain. From Guadalajara we drove seemingly endless miles along the vast shoreline of Lake Chapala, observing the numerous wild zinnias, lantana, and dahlias.

Continuing along on Mexican Highway 15, we entered the state of Michoacan and drove up into the pineforested mountains to Lake Patzcuaro. Near the lake, just above Tzintzuntzan, we visited the famous Tarascan Yacatas.

Leaving the Yacatas, we traveled day and night to Mexico City and shortly after dawn we visited the famous ruins of San Juan, Teotihuacán. We were at the top of the Pyramid of the Moon when we felt a sizable earthquake shake the entire area.

Proceeding from Mexico City, we drove a considerable distance to the state of Oaxaca, where Mr. Voss collected, an as yet undescribed, subspecies of *Ferocactus macrodiscus* near the town of Hauzuapan de Leon. It is interesting to note that the majority of *Mammallaria elegans* subspecies in the northern part of the state occur at rather high elevation in heavily shaded stands of the big leaf oak, *Quercus macrophylla*. Mr. Mahrldt also made a collection of scorpions from this area, some of which are now in the San Diego Society of Natural History Museum.

Finally arriving in the pleasant city of Oaxaca, we spent an enjoyable Sunday evening listening to the band play in the town square. Early the next day we visited and photographed the ruins of Mitla, Monte Alban, Zaachila, and Yagul. All of the structures

of these sites, at the time of habitation, were plastered and painted a brilliant red.

After visiting the Yagul and the famous Tule Tree, we arrived at Salina Cruz on the Gulf of Tehuantepec. At Salina Cruz, Mr. Voss and Mr. Sheedy collected the now very scarce *Melocactus oaxacensis*. Mr. Voss, who is studying the group, believes on the basis of variation that the majority of species occurring in southern Mexico and Central America may be synonymized into a single species, or perhaps subspecies.

### The Land of the Olmecs

We left humid Salina Cruz and traveled across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. This route is extremely interesting because one travels rapidly from the relatively dry hillside of southern Oaxaca, covered with large cacti, to the very tropical rain forests of southern Veracruz. We had finally reached the land of the ancient Olmecs, forerunners of the Mayas.

After a brief stop at Coatzacoalcos and the Bay of Campeche, we had arrived at Villahermosa, Tabasco.

In Villahermosa, we found the La Venta museum of the Olmec culture extremely interesting, the giant carvings being arranged in the natural setting of the jungle as they were found in Veracruz. The road from Villahermosa to the classical Mayan ruins of Palenque, Chiapas, follows a direct route through the low tropical marshes of the state.

We were not surprised to find that our luck from previous trips was not exhausted. Barely 19 kilometers from the ruins, the rear main seal gave way, which saturated our clutch, forcing us to return to Villahermosa. There, with Mr. Perkins and Mr. Sheedy using a minimum of tools, the truck was repaired in a surprisingly short time. At that time, Mr. Mahrdrdt was fortunate enough to collect two specimens of the least gecko, *Sphaerodactylus*, adults barely two inches long.

Traveling once again to Palenque ruins, we arrived just before sunset, making photography somewhat difficult. However, in spite of the difficulties, Mr. Voss and Mr. Mahrdrdt were able to bring back beautiful photos of the ruins.

Leaving the Palenque ruins, we traveled back through Villahermosa and on to Coatzacoalcos, where we spent the night.

Early next morning we were on our way to Veracruz where Mr. Voss photographed *Opuntias*, bromeliads, and palms, growing in the salt marshes near Alvarado.

Passing by the city of Veracruz we traveled from the coast to the mountainous capital of the state, Jalapa. It is near Jalapa that a second species of Turk's Cap is found, *Melocactus desertsianus*. Unfortunately, we did not stay long enough in the vicinity to find it, but again headed for the coast.

The winding road from Jalapa to Nautla took us through dense stands

of a native tree fern, *Cyathea*, the prickly trunks often reaching a height of 15 feet.

From Nautla we crossed via ferry to Gutierrez Zamora, then to Poza Rica and the ruins of El Tajin. El Tajin is famed for the pyramid of the Niches, from which Mr. Voss slipped, and for the wonderful bas-reliefs of ball players and sacrifices.

We left El Tajin the next day and traveled to the Tula ruins in Hidalgo where we collected several interesting Mammillarias. Around the Tula ruins, with its classic Toltec Atlantean figures, the Medicinal Aloe, *Aloe barbadensis* (*A. vera*) has naturalized.

Because of the sad condition of our vehicle, we were forced to utilize our resources in gaining lost time. Therefore, we took the new freeway directly to the town of Queretaro in the state of the same name. After staying in Queretaro only long enough to get gas, we then drove the remaining miles to the capital of the state, San Luis Potosi, (San Luis Potosi). At our camp just north of the town, Mr. Voss was surprised to find the powderpuff cactus, *Mammillaria bocasana*, clinging to rock faces.

### Rare Plant Found

One of the main objectives of our trip was to recollect a very rare plant which Mr. Voss collected in the state of Zacatecas, in August 1966. The plant, *Echinocereus weinbergii*, was described in Germany by W. Weingert



*It takes sharp eyes to locate specimens of this size as you can see by comparing the pick with the plants! This is Mammallaria elegans, found near Huauzapán de León, Oaxaca.*

*Below: Melocactus oaxacensis, found at Salina Cruz, Oaxaca.*





*The Temple of Inscriptions,  
Palenque, Chiapas*



*Tree ferns in Veracruz*

in 1912, without a known locality. The plant has never been known in the wild until Mr. Voss stumbled upon it.

On this trip we re-collected *Echinocereus weinbergii* several kilometers north of the original locality near Fresnillo, Zacatecas. We were able to judge from its distribution at this second locality that the plant is not quite as rare as previously believed, but far from common.

The collection of this plant more or less ended the expedition. After reaching Durango from Zacatecas, the route home was pretty straightforward.

We drove leisurely but steadily to El Paso, where our import permits were checked and the plants fumigated.

San Diego was reached by hard day and night driving from El Paso, but it was well worth it to be home once again.

## THERE HAD TO BE A "FIRST"

by Helen V. Witham

**I**N THE YEAR 1786 two French frigates, under command of Lapérouse and de Langle, cast anchor in the harbor of Monterey, California. They had sailed from France in August of 1785, rounded the Horn, stopped at the Sandwich Isles, gone North to Alaska, then southward along the Pacific Coast. The stop was made at Monterey to replenish wood and water before crossing the Pacific.

This expedition was largely scientific in purpose, although information on the extent, power, and purpose of the Spanish settlements was desired; also, the possibility of sharing in the fur trade and/or establishing French settlements required investigation. The Academy of Sciences, Paris, issued full instructions for gathering information and making collections. In Botany, it was hoped that research would be directed toward such useful objectives as a knowledge of the plants which the inhabitants of different countries used for food, medicine, or the arts.

Collections were to be made in regions where the temperature did not differ appreciably from that of France and whose plants, naturalized in the French climate, might some day serve to ornament its plantings. There was also a detailed list of instructions to the gardener concerning the introduction of plant materials into the countries visited, also acquisition of all forms of plant life with advice on how such might best be transported, sown, and so on. Records and collections were to be sent back from various points along the route of exploration. As it turned out, the only records we have were those sent en route, the last being from Macao, near Hong Kong, since both ships were lost in the Pacific after leaving Botany Bay, Australia.

The collector charging these duties was Jean-Nicolas Collignon, listed as "Jardnier-Botaniste" in the ship's papers. He was described as "young, active, intelligent, with some theoretical and practical knowledge of gardening, and writing sufficiently well to keep a journal of his

observations; he had some knowledge also of plants." Collignon kept in touch with M. Thouin, head gardener of the Jardin des Plantes. One of his letters, written from Macao, records that he was shipping, in three boxes, seeds gathered at various points, among others, Monterey.

This French expedition is one of very few which tell of taking plants, seeds and small trees to the places visited, as well as collecting from them. To Lapérouse we owe the introduction of the potato from Chile, seed potatoes having been presented to the Governor in the belief that the crop could be made to prosper here. De Langle also presented to the missionaries a mill for grinding corn, "which would make it possible for four women to do the work of one hundred." Several later visitors refer to the fact that this extremely useful device lay unused. So much for technology!

During the ten-day stay in Monterey, Sept. 14-24, such seeds as could be found at that season were collected, mention was made of trees observed: pine, cypress, oak, sycamore; as well as various shrubs and herbs: coastal sagebrush, asters, yarrow, goldenrod, mint, and nightshade, among others. If seeds of these were collected, they were lost, or descriptions were so poor or botanically incomplete that they could not be recognized by the growing science of Botany.

So it came about that botanical history was made by a seed from one of two small packets which did arrive in Paris. The seed was germinated, grown, studied, identified and named by Jussier, of the Jardin des Plantes, and became the "first plant from West of the Mississippi to be described in a manner acceptable to the botanists . . . raised from seed gathered near Monterey, California, by Collignon, gardener to the Lapérouse expedition."

What was it?

Oh—a small trailing herbaceous plant common in one form or another throughout the length of California—*Abronia umbellata*, the Beach Sand Verbena! ■



*ALL about onions!*

# ONIONS FOR EVERYBODY

by Rosalie F. Garcia



*Onions . . . and some loving companions.*

*Photo by Betty Cooper*

**T**HIS IS THE TIME of the year to put in a good word for the onion. It is no namby-pamby vegetable! Take note of the onion—it demands attention and affection. One is either for it or against it, and no in-between. (Even those who say they don't like onions will eat some of the more refined members of the family.)

Its pungent odor and breath contamination quality evoke apologies, even though the equally potent whiskey sour does not. It has never achieved the social status of the bland asparagus or artichoke. Very few menus will even mention it, although the sauce, the meat, and the salad often owe their flavor to the onion.

It is the most versatile of vegetables. A good slice of raw onion slapped onto buttered bread makes a most satisfying sandwich. Thinly sliced in green salads or chopped in fish and meat salads it adds texture and interest. Crispy fried rings with their succulent interiors are a most welcome accompaniment to steaks and chops. Boiled and smothered in any of the French sauces the onion is a dish unto itself. Many cooks are moved to tears as they slice and chop while following a recipe, especially from French cook books which begin, "sauté some onions in butter." Nothing else will flavor the sauce, the stew and other vegetables like this initial operation.

Except for the pepper, no other vegetable so excites the senses to such decided

reaction. The texture in the crisp flesh, which is something one can get his teeth into; the excitement of the taste buds from the tingling juice; the irritation of the nasal passages and the tear-jerking response of fumes in the air all from the raw onion are peculiar to the genus *allium*. The aroma of frying onion will make the dog bark and the cat rub one's legs in supplication for a bite. The juice rubbed on a fresh cut in the flesh will sting, but its antiseptic quality is healing.

Although 90% of the onion is water, the 10% left is full of minerals and vitamins, so that weight watchers need have no qualms. Pioneer and primitive peoples have always prized the onion for medicinal values, recognizing that it had health-giving qualities.

## *A Long History*

Wild onions are found growing near streams throughout the temperate zones of the world, but the Chinese were the first to cultivate it around 300 A.D. and elevate it into the culinary art. The Mediterranean countries adopted it, found uses for it and passed it along to all of Europe, and the early settlers brought it to the new world. The Indians knew of it and used the wild onion here, but they did not cultivate. To our Latin heritage we are indebted for the many uses of the onion, and to the horticulturists for the development of over 300 varieties.

One would have to take a Ph.D. in onions to know all the varieties, but that is not necessary to grow and enjoy the eight or ten most familiar and useful. Onions are a staple in the produce departments of our splendid markets, but only a few varieties are for sale, and they are often tough and lacking in juice, having been bred for their keeping qualities. One sees the glossy and firm white, yellow and red, and the exquisite boiling onions and bunches of green ones. For a short time during the summer months the most delicious red, juicy, flat and round Bermuda is available. This one is for eating raw with a platter of sliced tomatoes and cucumbers with some seasoned salt. Most of the others are hot as pepper, strong in odor and best for seasoning. There is little use in trying to grow any of these.

## *Some You Should Grow*

Onions are hardy and easy to grow, and after experimentation, one should find favorites and concentrate on them. In our climate one can plant almost anytime, but they are essentially cool weather plants. Now is a good time to start. They need a loose, rich, well drained soil. Dig the plot well, mix in plenty of humus and a good general fertilizer, and keep the soil moist, but not wet, for onions are subject to rot. Most pests don't like them. Snails and cut worms are the main ones

to watch when the plants are small. A few clumps of multiplying onions or Society garlic among the roses will keep the aphids away.

There are three ways to start onions: sets, plants and seeds. The easiest is to buy onion sets at the nursery, but the more exotic ones are hard to find. White, yellow and red sets are available and make good green onions in about a month. Planting a row every two or three weeks will furnish a perpetual supply. Make a shallow drill and put the sets about four inches apart and cover lightly and firmly.

Some nurseries sell bunches of young plants which have grown from seeds in hot houses until they are about four inches tall. These can be transplanted in rows about four inches apart and just deep enough to hold the stems upright. They will produce green onions in a month. Young's Feed Store on 30th Street near University in San Diego imports plants of the most delicious of all onions, the Crystal White Wax, a Bermuda type, which he sells to customers who get on his list to be notified when he receives his shipments in January and February. These white onions are so sweet and juicy and mild of flavor that one can eat them like an apple. Let a few go to seed and little onions will come up all over the plot which can be transplanted to produce a perpetual crop. These are seldom for sale in the markets because they are too juicy to keep well. Leave all that are not eaten as green onions in the soil, refrain from watering after the tops die, and they will keep until the rains come, and can be harvested as needed.

### Planting from Seed

Now is a good time to plant seeds. They can go directly into shallow drill outside in the garden plot, or in a seed bed in the cold frame. When they get about four inches high either in the row or in the frame, carefully lift out the tiny plants with a knife and transplant in shallow rows. Watch the seed racks in the nurseries, read to see if they are mild or strong in flavor. The Bermuda group is mild and juicy. Burpee's and other California seed houses list other mild ones. The Spanish types come in yellow, white and red and are mild. So is the White Portugal. The he-man strong pungent ones are Red Wetherford, Southport Yellow Globe, and Yellow Globe Danvers. An exotic one in this group is

the Red Bottle, a very large purplish red often called the "Red Italian." All of these hot ones keep well and are fine for cooking and flavor.

### They're Lilies, after all!

Most onions belong to the lily family and produce bulbs, but some make only stems and leaves which are edible. These are usually bunching onions which grow in clusters of stems. The Evergreen Long White Bunching is an annual grown from seed and makes only green onions, sometime called scallions, which is the general name for all green onions. The perennial bunching onion, commonly known as the multiplying onion is good to have in a few clumps for a few of the stems are always available for seasoning. They are tough and strong and not good for eating raw.

### Leeks

The leek is one of the non-bulbous onions that is mild in flavor, crisp in texture and easily digested. Sow a package of seed in a shallow drill, and thin and transplant as the plants become crowded. When they are about the size of a pencil, mulch up two or three inches to keep the stems white and tender. They keep well for months. Cooked like asparagus and dressed with Hollandaise sauce, they are a company dish. Chopped or sliced with other vegetables their delicate flavor perks up the bland peas, beans, egg plant or squash. Sliced in salads they are crunchy and do not contaminate the breath.

### For Apartment Dwellers

Apartment dwellers can have a pot of chives or garlic chives, often called "Society Garlic," which is much milder than the cloves of regular garlic. Besides having the leaves to chop for seasoning, they produce delicate stems of white and lavender clusters of flowers. Most nurseries carry little pots of these on their herb

counters. They will also grow well in semi-shaded beds near the kitchen door so one can run out and get a few blades for quick seasoning.

Having fresh garlic cloves which are easily grown by just planting a few cloves from a cluster you buy at the market is a luxury, for they are not as pungent as the dried cloves, and the leaves are good seasoning also.

### Shallots

The shallot is another mild onion that is somewhere between the bunching and bulbous onion. It makes clusters of bulbs about the size of one's thumb, almost on top of the ground. Plant the bulbs only half covered and keep them only mildly damp, for they have a way of melting away. They multiply into about twenty bulblets and dry up at the beginning of hot weather. Lift them and hang them upside down in a dry place and enjoy them for seasoning, crushed or sliced, and save some to plant next spring.

### Delectable Pearl Onions

The most exotic of all the onions is the Egyptian or Pearl which one most often meets on the cocktail circuit as tiny pickled morsels. The larger ones can be skinned by loosening the shells in hot water, and sautéed in butter. They are little bulbs which one plants, but the pearls emerge in clusters atop the stems where they mature and are harvested. I have seen them nowhere in this area except at Jurgensen's, our local Epicurean grocer, and then only in the fall.

If allergies and the digestive process rebel at the intake of the delicious onion, deepest sympathy is in order. If only stubborn coddling of some traumatic experience that has set up a conditioned reflex against the onion, so often expressed as "I don't eat onions" denies enjoyment of the noble onion, all I can say is, "You don't know what you are missing!" ■

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## A Lawn

by Walker Ferguson  
Iris Hybridizer

*A lawn to me is just a pain  
Here in this land of little rain.  
The work you do is so in vain—  
You grow it and you mow it.*

*You buy and plant expensive seed,  
You try to keep out every weed  
And fertilize,? Oh, yes indeed—  
To grow it and to mow it.*

*All year, you have to irrigate;  
The blame thing will not hibernate.  
So there's no time to hesitate  
With growing and the mowing.*

*It must be watered once a week  
To keep it growing at its peak,  
And tho' the joints begin to creak  
You have to keep on mowing.*

*There's nothing you can sell or eat—  
It doesn't smell so very sweet,  
And still you strive to keep it neat.  
You grow it and you mow it.*

*It doesn't have a fragrant smell,  
There's nothing you can eat or sell.  
So what is there that does impel  
The growing and the mowing?*

*If those two verses may seem trite,  
I think they really are as bright  
As keeping up the steady fight  
Of growing and of mowing.*

*The better you can make it grow  
The oftener you have to mow  
You must admit this all is so  
But—go on with the mowing.*

*The remedy would seem to be  
A nice big houseboat on the sea.  
But ocean life is not for me,  
And so, I'll grow and mow it.*

(We can't live with them and we can't live without them? Anyway, most of us square up our shoulders as Mr. Ferguson says and put that old muscle power to work. Mr. Ferguson's verse eases the pain, though!—Ed.)

## Read About Your Pesticide

Take a few minutes to read the fine print on the label when buying pesticides, suggests James M. Moon, San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner.

The label will tell you how to use the material and on what plants, what the active ingredient is, and what, if any, precautions should be taken in using it.

A common mistake of many gardeners is to buy another material if the present one isn't doing the job. In many instances, a gardener may have three or four different trade-name materials on the shelf and still not get the proper insect or disease control.

Upon reading the fine print, the gardener may find that all his materials contain the same active ingredient. Even the percentage and rate of use may be the same.

Once a pest problem has started on plants, it is often difficult to obtain good control, Commissioner Moon says. When attempting to solve pest problems, identify the pest first, then you'll know what you are trying to combat.

Commissioner Moon recommends the use of pesticides at the correct dosage; application at properly timed intervals, taking into consideration factors such as weather; giving thorough coverage on each application; and starting early, before the problem is visible. Above all, for effective control and to prevent plant damage, follow the manufacturer's recommendations stated on the label.

## Wildflower Watchers — Note!

The first one is here: tiny *Jepsonia parryi*, a member of the widespread Saxifrage family.

Anyone looking intently at the right square foot of ground may be rewarded by suddenly seeing stars. For that is exactly what they are: tiny, perfect, five-pointed white stars on reddish, thread-sized scapes. No leaves, they were there last spring; roundish, hairy, red-backed leaves much like those of the little Saxifrage we call "Strawberry Geranium" in our gardens.

## THE TROXELLS AT HOME



Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Troxell in their lovely garden at 4950 Canterbury Drive. Dr. Troxell is the Floral Representative of the Men's Garden Club and gave generous assistance in this issue of *California Garden*.

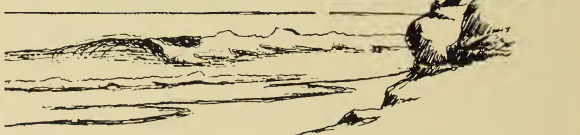
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## Clematis

**W**HILE VERY FEW of the more than 200 species of Clematis will grow here in our mild climate, the few which flourish are plants of startling beauty. They have slender, graceful stems, clean, crisp foliage, enormous flowers of clear color and firm texture, followed by fruiting clusters which Roland Hoyt called "lustrous silken tangles." These three varieties are recommended for San Diego area: *Jackmanii* (purple), *Henryii* (white), and *Ramona* (sky blue or lavender). Others may be available occasionally, in early spring.

Once established, Clematis require little care beyond routine watering and light regular feeding. A light soil with plenty of humus suits them fine. The only difficulty comes in establishing, and that is a matter of meeting two absolutely essential requirements: set plants deeply, and give them "cool feet and hot heads."

When planting, be sure to disregard everything you have ever learned about planting high, and bury the crown under two or three inches of soil, adding a coarse mulch over this.

The second requirement may be met by planting against a west wall with some undemanding low shrub close by for shade, by planting on the north side of a fence or wall, or by planting under a large shrub or small tree which it can climb through or over. It climbs by twisting the leaf petioles around whatever is nearby: another leaf petiole, a branch, another plant, wire, even splinters on a rough fence.

There is a white one in the Winter Gardens area covering a stump and low fence; and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Moore, on Harbison Avenue, near La Mesa, have grown *C. Jackmanii* for over twelve years on a light trellis attached to the west wall of their garage. A succession of Impatiens plants have shaded the root area over the years. Mrs. Moore prunes the vine in early spring (March) to within two or three nodes of old growth. In three months it is in flower. Light summer pruning brings a second flowering two months later. Dozens of flowers may be out at one time, flat 4, 5, or 6-pointed stars of deepest velvety purple.

Spring flowers may be five or six inches across, fall blooms slightly smaller. Mrs. Moore recommends planting Clematis where it can be viewed from indoors, because of its continuing interest.

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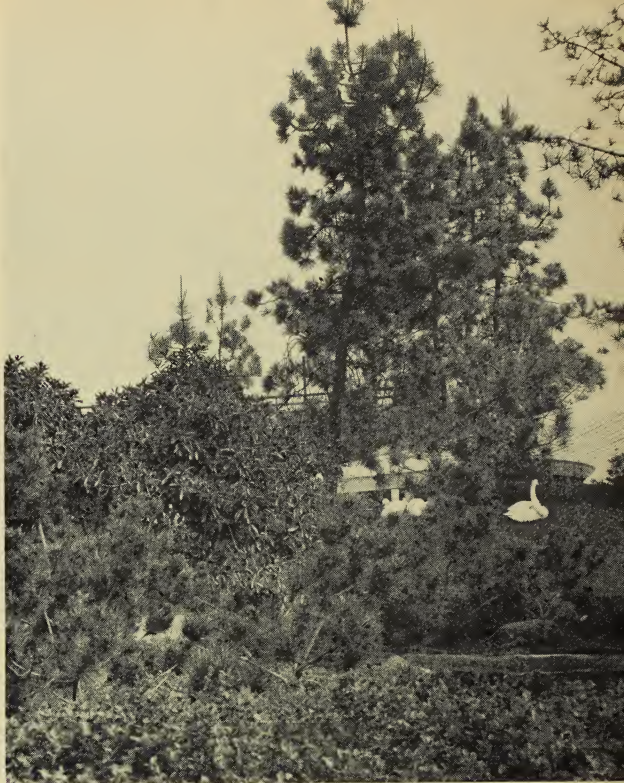
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# Successful Landscaping In A Problem Environment:

## SEA WORLD

by Virginia Norell

*Sea World's head gardener, Bob Browning, tells an interesting story of how to deal with planting near bay and ocean.*



*An unlikely and refreshing variety of foliage: Torrey Pine, Rusty Leaf Fig, Japanese Black Pine and Natal Plum in the foreground.*

CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE, long compared favorably with the famed coasts of Europe, has lured many to make their homes by its side.

The problems one finds in landscaping such areas have been thoroughly investigated at San Diego's beautiful Sea World, and as one tours the park the interesting planting areas give as much pleasure as examining the marine life on display.

Bob Browning proved a friendly and informative guide on your editor's tour of the park, as are all the staff at Sea World. The story of the landscaping goes back four and a half years to the opening of Sea World, a unique and wonderful place to visit. Its charm is not accidental—careful and skillful planning of a highly artistic nature went into creating the effects.

The landscaping was originally planned

by the firm of Yamada and Wimmer. At the present time, landscaping is under the direction of J.J.J. Kennedy. Evidence of Bob Browning's skill in supervising the gardening staff is everywhere in the beautifully maintained plantings.

### Number One Problem

When asked about the number one problem, Bob laughed. The story of their lives is the constant struggle with salt water seepage from below. How do they cope with this? Fresh water—lots of it! In the beginning, the soil was continually soaked for approximately 14 hours to leach it out. To facilitate this, an agent called "Water In" was used. This material breaks down the molecular structure of the water so it will penetrate the soil better and go deeper into the subsoil—it's almost like "thinning" the water.

Watering everything at Sea World is on a schedule two to three times as much as most other places, in order to have a continuing leaching process.

The soil at Sea World was of course brought in. Some soil from the city dumps was used, as well as some which was dredged from the bay bottom.

### Those Thousands of Feet

Another problem is traffic—that is, the endless flow of visitors who often cut corners and walk over plantings. In one area—adjacent to the cotton candy booth—the public has simply made a path where they wanted it to go from there. Eventually, the staff may decide not to fight it! The area no doubt will have a path right where it has been smoothly pounded down.

*Continued next page*



### Hydroseeding

One of the interesting innovations in the planting in San Diego's famous aquatic park is hydroseeding. Those of you who may have wondered how the sliced-off walls of Mission Valley just north of the new stadium became green and lush with plants almost overnight now know the answer. This is almost "instant landscaping." It has been used for about eight to ten years in the Los Angeles area, but is new to San Diego.

In this process, a paper mulch is dyed green for immediate color, and mixed with Bermuda stolens, all types of seeds, fertilizer and water. The material is kept under constant agitation in a 500-gallon tank, then pumped onto the prepared soil. The latter is readied by adding fertilizer, soil amendments and leaching compound.

Estimates of the efficiency of this method indicate that it is three or four times faster than sodding. Depending on the seed, germination is about 10-14 days — and in the meantime, the area is green from the mulch. At Sea World, one ap-

plication in a section of the park took just six hours to complete instead of the normal three to four days! Specimen plants and trees are put in about a week ahead of the hydroseeding.

### Aesthetic Use of Common Plants

It is fun to walk around Sea World, looking at the planting for ideas. Common plants seen anywhere in California are thriving, and have been used in uncommonly interesting design. A beautiful balance of level and mounded areas exists, as well as some low "bowls" giving a contour variety extremely pleasing to the eye of the beholder. Speaking of bowls, some very effective spots have been planted around a single large concrete planter bowl on a low pedestal. This could be used very well in small garden areas to add a sharp color accent as high above ground level as you might care to have it.

Another idea, fairly recent, at Sea World is to suspend hanging baskets over the ponds and lagoon areas — filled with our old friends petunias and geraniums.

### Hanging baskets over the water



*Sago Palms are exotic*

Many San Diego or other California gardens have little — or large — pools where this could add a great deal to the garden. Baskets can be very well used suspended from limbs of trees, too.

### Groundcovers

Groundcovers are well represented. A great deal of Zoysia grass has been used, especially in sloping or mounded spots. The grass has a delightfully mossy, woody look. It is set in with 2" plugs which naturally mound a little at the planting spot. There is a charm about this because of its forest feeling, and its velvety texture forms a striking background for the specimen plants placed at strategic spots. One of the much-used and lovely flowers seen all over the park is the *moraea*, or African iris, also known commonly as the "fortnight lily" because the blooms seem to come at two-week intervals. This plant yields blooms throughout spring, summer and fall and sometimes well into the winter if it is mild. The *moraea* is native to South Africa, and thrives here.

In addition to the Zoysia grass, a great many areas are planted in wild strawberry, *fragaria chilensis*. This plant is a native of Pacific beaches and bluffs, North and



*Moraea, or "fortnight lily."*



South America — so it's right at home in the Sea World environment. It needs little cutting. Perhaps every few years it should be mowed on a high setting to top it. Sunset's *Western Garden Book* gives as a rule of thumb an annual cutting, but this has not been done at Sea World and the plants look in excellent condition.

### Mildew

What about mildew in this salt-laden, moisture-laden air? does indeed pose a problem and certainly influence any choice of plants to be included in the landscaping.

Fungicides are used where necessary, particularly on any inside plantings, every two or three weeks.

And oh, those mealy bugs! They do thrive in moist, cool spots. So they too must be chased constantly.

With the prostrate myoporum (shown on this page in our photo at the right), mildew is a considerable problem. Corsan 20 is being used to control it and seems to be working well. The plant makes a handsome groundcover, particularly on a slope, as it is used at Sea World near the seal and penguin area. It is well worth the effort to establish it. (Bob picked up one of the branches in our photo to illustrate the growth habit of overlaid branches.)

### Trees

Among the trees which so enhance the park now, one finds appealing groves of mellaluccas. These are from the bottle brush family, and have white blossoms. They do well on lawn slopes, and have a restrained growth habit. They look well in groupings without overwhelming other plantings or adjacent buildings.

For tree foliage variation as well as aesthetic shape, the *Athrania copper* (coral trees) are used. One problem with these trees is that they require pruning every six to eight weeks or the limbs become heavy and break off unexpectedly.

The pendulous acacia furnishes a delightful Oriental aspect to the many ponds, bordered by rocks and artistically interspersed with moraea and, often, Sago palms as well as the Japanese Black Pine.

This has been a very condensed idea of what you may find, horticulturally speaking, at Sea World in San Diego. Take a day out and see these and the many other plants and landscaping ideas we haven't had room to talk about here. (Don't forget a small notebook—you'll find many ideas for your own garden!)



*Prostrate Myoporum*



*a grove of Mellaluccas*

*Below, ficus rubiginosa, the rusty-leaf fig gives a bronze tone to the landscaping*



*Pendulous acacia gives an Oriental effect*

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FLOWERS

It is possible to see in flowers, in their planting, growth, bloom and withering a model of our own existence. The language of man is full of allusions that represent this symbolic parallel. We speak of the bloom of youth, the flowering of young manhood. A young girl is compared to a fresh blossom.

Long ago flowers played an important part in religious festivities. The ancient Romans paid homage to Flora, goddess of flowers, with an annual festival, and Myrtle was sacred to Venus.

Because of their scent, beauty, color and the tactile sensation they afford, flowers have a generally uplifting effect when they are received. Businessmen welcome new businesses with flowers or plants, because they represent in the mind's vocabulary "hopefulness" and "growth." This practice is new only in that we can now wire flowers all over the country—its time-honored precedent was set by ancient men of wealth who would scatter roses lavishly about their reception rooms. And even the Aztec Indians knew the rose's psychological power to please; they presented bouquets and wreaths of flowers to honor distinguished guests.

Errant husbands, out overnight, have long acted on an intuitive knowledge of the psychological power of flowers by brandishing a bouquet to an angry wife. Flowers do soothe, because they have an almost totally positive association and therefore they engender affection from the feminine gender.

Introverted personalities are described as "shrinking violets" because a violet may close its petals when the sun shines directly on it—as some personalities may close in upon themselves when affected by too strong a stimulus.

The "wallflower," a form of "shrinking violet," was so named because of the similarity in attitude between the person and the flowers that inhabit hidden crevices of walls around towers and tombstones. The psychological association though sometimes primitive, reflects a view of man and his world that is paralleled in the flower and its relation to nature.

Human nature being what it is—flowery at best—it's quite easy to see why friends and lovers use the psychological symbolism of flowers to communicate. In olden days, a red carnation sent to

one's sweetheart signified "My heart aches for you." A branch of arbutus meant "Thee only do I love." To which the object of this ardor might reply by sending back a sprig of ambrosia "Your love is reciprocated" or a moss rose bud ("I confess my love") or a Syrian mallow ("I am consumed by love"). The recipient of a sprig of iceplant, however, knew he got the cold shoulder. Quite often an admirer would send a branch of biscaria ("Will you dance with me?"). Responding with a dried white rose meant "Death is preferable to loss of innocence!"

Even politicians knew how to say it. A spray of oleander meant "Caution!" And when they sent somebody a sprig of monkhood, it meant "Beware, a deadly foe is near!"

During the Middle Ages, a tradition of the therapeutic value of flowers, spices and herbs developed which has survived and been translated into the modern science of medicine. While many of the old recipes using flowers and leaves for medicine are not valid (although a few are!) the psychological significance remains for a good many people.

If you want to please someone you love in another city, you send flowers by wire. If you want to express your sympathy when there has been a death, again you send flowers. We put flowers on graves to dramatize the fact that life goes on, and now and then we replace them to deny death.

Bishop Cox once wrote wisely: "Flowers are words which even a babe may understand."

—*Courtesy of Florist Transworld Delivery*

### Readers! Gardeners!

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# Calendar of Care

**I**T'S SUNDOWN TIME for the dahlia gardener—the end of the year, and time to plan or follow through on saving this year's roots through the winter.

Those who already have dug and lifted this year's roots will be disappointed in the keeping quality, regardless of the method of storage. For best results, it's too early.

Harvesting of dahlia roots is similar to digging, treating and storing potatoes: The grower waits for the plant and roots (or potatoes) to mature, and then he proceeds to "cure" them, before storing.

Because of the long growing season in Southern California, dahlia plants continue to thrive so long as they are watered and fertilized, until almost year's end. In frost areas, there are visible signs when the growing season comes to an end; the plants turn brown or black when frost hits.

In the more temperate areas growth will continue, and if the roots are not dug and drainage is sufficient, it isn't unusual for a certain amount of green to remain over the winter, even if it is new growth from the matured roots grown this season.

Even if watering continues, dahlia plants will deteriorate—some faster than others. This becomes evident in mid-September or early October. There will be a drying of leaves, blooms will have open centers, and stems and leaves will have a succulent quality, rubbery and drooping).

Those are signs that the roots are mature, or nearly so.

The best procedure then is to stop watering and begin trimming back the unsightly portions of the plants. It won't be long before the leaves will dry and the stalks will turn brown.

## *The "Spade Treatment"*

That is the signal that nature's curing of the roots has started. To hasten this, some dahlia growers use a spade sent straight down to spade depth around

each plant. This should be about 12 to 15 inches from the stalk.

The operation cuts the feeder roots, and a slight lifting of the root clump with the spade will snap the tap roots. After that it is a good idea to keep the roots in the ground two or three weeks, short of heavy rains. Thus the curing process will be natural, and the roots will have better keeping qualities.

When the plant is "through," or when it is given the spade treatment, it should be cut down with only about 6 to 8 inches of stalk above ground.

## *When to Dig*

Digging time is best between Thanksgiving and Christmas — or even later, if the ground continues reasonably dry.

Properly cured mature roots will keep under almost all storage methods. Some growers like to lift the clumps, dirt and all, and store them in boxes — paper or wood — just like they are, or under the protective cover of a tree and only a tarp or burlap to keep out excessive moisture, heat and drying air.

Others like to remove the dirt and cut the clumps into divisions. Still others work the clumps over, remove the excess and "blind" roots, and prepare individual roots for planting even before they are stored.

Clumps stored in their entirety should be placed upside down to permit drainage from the stalks. Those cut into divisions should be dusted with sulphur, and for additional safety, with a fungicide such as captan, phaltan or terrachlor, mixed with the sulphur.

Divided clumps and roots are stored in boxes with protective packing: shred-

ded paper, vermiculite, peat moss, or even sand. The boxes should be kept in a cool place, away from drying wind until February or March. From then on nature will signal when the roots are ready to plant, with sprouts appearing at the crown ends of the roots.

There are many other variations in dahlia storage. The subject usually occupies two or more meetings of the Dahlia Society. But the more experienced growers advise that once the gardener hits on a system of successful storage he should adopt it permanently.

## *Show Time*

Dahlias originated in San Diego continued to dominate on the winners' tables at California shows in July, August and September.

Sterling Silver, originated by William Eichman of Encinitas, again was a favorite. It is round, formal white, about 7 to 8 inches in diameter. It won best-in-show in San Diego, and accounted for three additional top awards.

Others in the forefront were dahlias originated by R. Paul Comstock of Solana Beach: First Lady, Edna C., Lulu Pattie and Col. Eddy. With a slight variation, the list of winners was about the same at the other shows.

Winners of the future also were show attractions, and true to tradition, seedlings displayed first in San Diego—especially those introduced by Mr. Comstock—go on to become top winners wherever dahlias are exhibited.

New varieties scoring the magic 85 or better this year included a flame colored (red on orange) miniature ball measuring about 3 inches, named Master David;



an autumn blend formal about 8 inches across, named Iva Steavens, and a huge coral pink informal or semi-cactus 13 to 14 inches across and 10 to 11 inches deep, named Carl W. Comstock. All were originated by R. Paul Comstock.

Also showing promise was an 8-inch red cactus type named Kathy Sullens, originated by Frank Norell of Encinitas.

In addition to being scored on the show bench, these and other new varieties are being grown and scored in trial gardens under auspices of the American Dahlia Society. Their ratings by combined bench-garden scores will guide dahlia growers in trying to select winners to plant in next year's gardens.

## Photos From the Dahlia Show



Above: Largest in show "Carl W. Comstock" American Dahlia Society Award grown by Paul Comstock, measuring 13 1/16" x 11 1/2", will be on the market next year for the first time.

Right: Dahlia Show Invitational arrangement by Mrs. John Casale carried out the "Traditional" theme with branches and pink blossoms in a basket container.

Photos by Betty Mackintosh



Above: Best arrangement in show was by Maisie Dodge who used a single orange collarette type dahlia "Mrs. H. Brown" to carry out the theme "What's New."



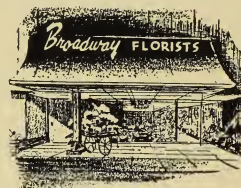
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# FUCHSIAS

by Morrison W. Doty  
San Diego Fuchsia Society

**D**REAMY INDIAN SUMMER DAYS may lure us to enjoy more time in our gardens to rest as well as work, but with the coming of cold foggy nights, often more wind, and some of the hottest days of the year between, there are problems too.

## Watch Moisture

Most of the plant losses of the year seem to come now at summer's end, usually from being *too dry*. This happens in cool, foggy, or windy weather especially to container or basket plants in fluffy, porous planting mixes, or dried out peat. Soil mixtures that hold *too much* moisture, in too heavy shade, will also kill. So, deep finger-testing of the soil every day or two at such times is the safest way to avoid these losses. (They were worse than ever this season, here).

## Pests and Diseases

No plants in Southern California's mild pest-ridden area are immune to all plant diseases. Frequent victims are tired, old, and end-of-season plants.

Fuchsias may suffer from *Red Spider* mites (almost microscopic in size) causing browning and dropping of leaves. *Thrip* also, is nearly invisible to the naked eye and may cause streaks in leaves and flowers, and the same eventual defoliation. Lindane sprays for Red Spider, and DDT will control Thrip and White Fly, appearing first as waxy white larvae on the under side of leaves, then hatching into tiny dust-like flies and making the leaves curl and droop.

Another occasional pest, found more often in greenhouses than gardens, is *Mealy Bug* which appears as white cottony masses on stems or bark, and is very hard to cure if allowed to get well started. Nicotine Sulphate combined with mild bleach solution will control Mealy Bug, however, and also the even more serious, though rather rare, microscopic Cycamen Mite.

Well fed, watered and cared-for clean fuchsia stock is very little addicted to any plant diseases, especially if the foliage is water-sprayed sharply under and over

very often, and preventive sprays containing old stand-bys, like lindane, DDT, pyrethrum and rotenone are used regularly.

## About Pesticides

We're rather old-fashioned in still preferring the mild preventive pesticides instead of some of the poisonous petroleum based ones that may kill earthworms or perhaps defoliate sensitive shade plants like fuchsias. However, there are some safe new sprays, which, like the Systemics, are preferred by many growers.

## Trim Back Now

This is a good time of year for trimming. Plants that have grown too tall, straggly, uneven and ugly should be shaped back. Discreet fall pruning of most fuchsias is now quite generally accepted, and many growers, even some nurserymen, prefer to do practically all their pruning in autumn when the sap is down, avoiding possible bleeding or die-back of too-late spring pruning. But lush fall growth in cold areas is risky. Since fuchsias (properly fed, watered and cared-for) bloom, rest, and bloom again in our long mild seasons, sometimes almost to exhaustion, we need good judgment now to ensure good plants for next spring.

Older, tired, bloomed-out plants should have their food and water reduced to a safe minimum for survival in dormancy *before* they are exhausted. Younger, thrifty, vigorous plants of favorite varieties may be selected now for extra care that can well please us with bloom even up into December in this area.

## Use Your Cuttings to Propagate

Any pruning time provides a wealth of cuttings for possible propagation of

new stock. Fuchsia cuttings are among the easiest known to grow. They will root heavily in plain water, just about any time of year. So, save three-inch tip cuttings (with only the tip foliage left on) from the most vigorous favorite varieties. Press them down firmly in a flat (or planting cup) of moist sand, and place in a warm, filtered sunlit nook. Other expensive starting mixes are available but we've had perfect success with only sharp sand, and a bit of fine leaf mold. Fresh peat added sometimes helps if the cutting is not transplanted in time, and cuttings may be dipped in root hormone first, if desired. They should be ready for two-inch pots within two or three weeks.

Make plenty of cuttings to exchange with garden friends for other varieties. Constant moisture *underneath* only is needed for cuttings. If kept *too wet* they may *damp off* and *die*, especially in *chilly* wet weather.

Fine leaf mold and rich top loam is about the simplest, most inexpensive, yet satisfactory small pot mixture that is always easily available. If peat is added it must never be allowed to dry out. Some of the complex mixes are very good, but rather expensive. Our soil here needs humus most, and Milorganite is used by many now, and is readily available at your nursery.

This is a good time to shop the fuchsia nurseries for some of the more than 3000 varieties that have been hybridized over the years. New originations mentioned now include Tradewinds, Medalion, Igloo, and many others, but we still love Red Shadows, Capri, Red Jacket, and dozens of the old ones like Mission Bell, Montezuma, etc. just as much.

Join a Fuchsia Society in your community and enjoy this fascinating hobby with the rest of us. ■



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## I R I S E S

by Frank Hutchinson,  
Secretary San Diego-Imperial  
County Iris Society

**B**OTH SPURIA AND TALL BEARDED IRIS are easy to raise in Southern California. Hybridizers have introduced many varieties which are well suited to this area. Many local gardeners have recently been planting new spuria varieties. Growers ship rhizomes in September and October. These irises grow from four to six feet tall with minimum care. They like to be left alone for as long as ten years! They enjoy sun, fertilizers, and plenty of water from October 1st until the middle of summer, after which they will tolerate a surprising amount of summer neglect. Plan now to see these orchid-like beauties at the 1969 Spring Iris Shows.

Spuria iris rhizomes, when established, will go through a summer without any water. However, it is not necessary that they be so completely neglected.

Surprisingly, these rhizomes must not be allowed to dry out when replanting operations disturb them! They are shipped moist and must be promptly planted one to two inches under the surface. They need daily watering until the winter rains. They respond to rich soil—as much as three inches of manure can be dug into the soil before planting.

It is getting late to order them for this year, but friends may share by lifting a few rhizomes from the edge of established clumps without causing any apparent damage to the rest of the clump. Nothing could be easier!

Visit your favorite nurseries and let them know that you want to plant some Dutch, or some Spanish, iris bulbs. Many gardens in this area have excellent success with them. Our Dutch irises have multiplied so much that we just scatter them through the garden and let them grow like weeds. The foliage is not heavy, blooms are very satisfying, and they require no special care if drainage is good.

Tall bearded iris rhizomes may be lifted and reset any month of the year. Since growers ship them in the summer, most gardeners have now planted their new stock. (It is getting late in the season to divide and replant without disturbing next spring's expected bloom).

Examine your planting for problems and weeds. Rhizomes need good drainage, but they also need plenty of water while they are trying to get established. Keep them growing. Pull or cut off dry foliage. Rhizomes should be barely covered when set in heavy, wet soils. They can be slightly deeper in light, well-drained soils. Deep planting and poor drainage encourage rot. If your rhizomes are sitting high and dry like little boats on water, they are higher than is generally recommended but they will grow. In our garden such exposed rhizomes frequently have had disappointing bloom stalks.

Hard soils, which are most common in this area, may be improved with a white coating of gypsum scratched into the surface before the winter rains. Remove weeds in the same operation and follow up with a good November feeding of superphosphate or a 5-10-10 fertilizer. With your hand, scatter it lightly around clumps or down and across rows. Scratch it in lightly. Don't hoe carelessly since

the new increase is now peeking up all over your planting, sometimes several inches from a strong fan. Iris rhizomes, when newly set, send out many white rootlets in all directions near the surface. Cultivation around such plants should be avoided as much as possible. When established, iris seem to thrive on special care. They will grow and bloom with neglect; but they reward with show blooms when they are fed, watered regularly, and cultivated.

Reblooming (remontant) iris should be kept growing all year. Since they bloom twice a year, they need special culture. It is best to have them in a bed separated from the varieties which bloom only in spring. Hybridizers are introducing better quality tall bearded remontants. Plan to see them November 17th in San Diego at the Fall Iris Show, Floral Building, Balboa Park. These irises simply work twice as hard to please you. In southern California we have climatic conditions which are so favorable to iris culture that some gardens have iris in bloom every week of the year. The remontants bloom in any month, whenever the variety prefers, and when the rhizome is strong enough! If you fed yours in late September, keep them watered and growing for peak bloom during the Fall Iris Show. ■

### NOTE

In our August-September issue the iris that won Premio Firenze del Iris, 1968, mentioned on page 13, is

### BEWITCHING

—not "Bewitched" as it appeared. It is to be introduced next year.

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## ROSES

by Richard D. Streeper,  
San Diego Rose Society

Have a gardening adventure —  
Grow a rose from seed!

**O**CTOBER AND NOVEMBER produce some of the best roses of the year in San Diego. Try to keep mildew under control by use of a regular preventive spray schedule. If experience indicates that mildew will not be eradicated by spray on a given stem or set of leaves, remove the damaged growth if that can be done without extensive damage to the plant. Better blooms are produced if you remove weak growth and permit flower buds to mature only on sturdy canes. However, you should not prune your bushes too severely at this time.

### Plan for Color

This is also a good time to think about the roses that you will add to your garden this winter. Now is the best time to prepare new beds. Consider how you can best combine colors for a striking effect. For example, clear yellow and pink flowers go very well together. Orange-reds (such as *Olé* or *Fusilier*) and whites create a striking combination. Most blends can be combined with good effect, and red and pink make a good combination. Also consider the use of other planting materials in combination with roses. Although there are few flowers that effectively complement a rose garden, blue delphiniums are always a happy addition as a landscape background.

### Roses from Seed

At this time of year, you may notice some plump rose hips forming on some of your bushes (or on your neighbors' bushes). Why don't you seize this opportunity to produce a rose unlike any other in the world? Growing roses from

seed is really very easy in San Diego. Here is what you should do:

**Remove the hip from the bush any time after it has lost its "growing green" appearance.** November and December are the preferred months for removing the hips and planting the seeds. If you don't know a rose hip when you see one, this is the seed pod which forms at the base of a flower if the flower is pollinated. On modern roses, hips generally are round in shape and from one-half to one inch in diameter. Although the hips of many types of older roses turn red when ripe, those of modern roses often turn to a burnt or a light orange in color. Frequently they will only turn to a lighter color of green. In this part of the country, it is fair to assume that any hip which is plump and alive in December contains mature seeds.

**After removing the hip from the bush, cut it open and remove the seeds.** A hip which is one inch in diameter will likely contain ten to twenty seeds varying

in size from one sixteenth to one eighth of an inch in diameter. Place all of the seeds in a pot for germination.

Much has been written about the great care and elaborate techniques required to germinate rose seeds. Fortunately for San Diegans, most of this material is inapplicable in Southern California. We have a climate which is perfectly suited for the maturation and germination of seeds. To take advantage of this climate and insure good success, use a planting mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half sand. Place the mixture in a four and one-eighth inch square plastic pot (this is a very common size used by most nurseries). The stated mixture and plastic pot are both very important if you expect success since they give a good combination of drainage and moisture retention. Distribute all of the seeds from the hip in the pot, planting the seeds about a quarter of an inch below the surface of the mixture. Make sure that the mixture is quite moist and then

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place the pot outdoors in the coolest and dampest part of your yard.

It is best to put some sort of screen over the pot at this time to keep snails out and to keep the birds out when the roses start to germinate. Check the pot from time to time to make sure that it does not dry out. First germination will generally take place in thirty to sixty days after planting.

When the seedlings start to germinate, move the pot to a protected part of the yard if you live in an area where frost occurs. However, do not move the pot indoors.

When the tallest seedling in the pot is an inch or so high or has two sets of true leaves, transplant the seedlings to individual pots. Before transplanting, carefully rap the plastic pot on all sides and assure yourself that the soil cube is separated from the pot. Use the greatest care in this procedure since

it is easy to break the soil cube and lose a great part of the root system. A plant which is one inch high will have a complex four inch root system. If half of the system is lost in the transplant operation, the plant surely will be checked or die.

Place the soil cube in a large pan filled with about four inches of water. Gently agitate the water in the pan to separate the root system of each plant from the soil cube. Do not remove any more soil from the roots than is necessary. The plants should be transplanted into four inch pots. Clay pots are satisfactory at this point if care is used to prevent them from drying out. Ungerminated seeds may be returned to the original plastic pot. A week or so after transplanting, you can start fertilizing. It is desirable to induce vigorous growth at this time. However, a weekly application of a twelve percent nitrogen fertilizer, diluted at the rate of one teaspoon per gallon, is about the maximum limit the plants can take without damage. The roses should have their first bloom about six weeks after germination. Any time thereafter, they may be set out in the ground.

## Soap from Bushes

"I suppose," said an old Californian one day, "if I were to tell you that soap grows wild out here, you'd think it was another California tall story."

We were jogging along a foothill road in a buckboard with a pair of broncos, and I noticed my companion was eyeing the slope of chaparral at one side, where the California lilacs were blooming by the twenty acres.

"Well," I replied, "a tenderfoot likes evidence, you know."

He pulled up the horses, and alighting, stripped from the nearest bushes a handful of the blossoms; then dipping his hands into a ditch of running water by the roadside, he rubbed water and flowers well together for a moment and to my astonishment his hands were bathed in a foamy lather. Then he rinsed them and spread them before me.

"It does the work, you see," he grinned.

I got down from the wagon and did it myself. There was no deception. My hands were as clean as the best toilet soap could have made them, soft as velvet and fragrant with a spicy fragrance.

—Charles Francis Saunders, from  
"With the Flowers and Trees in California"

(Ed. Note: Mr. Saunders does not identify the above plant botanically but goes on to state that there are several kinds growing wild. He does specifically mention one called *amole*, botanically *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, a plant of the lily tribe, apparently peculiar to California. He described this latter as being a stemless plant with broad, grass-like leaves, somewhat crinkled, sprawling on the ground. About three or four inches under the soil, one can grasp the underground base of the plant and pull it up. It resembles a ball of coarse blackish burlap. The root of the *amole* is a bulb about the size of an onion, but more elongated, encased in a snugly fitting fiber coat, which was readily stripped off. When it is off, you have a nice clean ball of soap. The Indians are reputed to have used this especially for washing their hair. Not only that, they are said to have *cooked* this bulb and discovered it as good to eat as the potato! Any experts know something about these plants? The editor of CALIFORNIA GARDEN would like very much to hear from you.

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Rep.: Frank Mousseau 295-5956  
595 Laurette St., S.D. 92110

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mr. Charles Persing 278-1589  
3552 Larrabee St., San Diego 92123

**S.D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN**  
Second and Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Clem Runner 463-6957  
4929 Rosehedge Dr., La Mesa 92041  
Rep.: John Baesley 273-4636  
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 92117

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY**  
Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Gerald L. Lohmann 279-5135  
6616 Rock Glen Ave., S.D. 92111  
Rep.: Mrs. R. M. Middleton 296-3246  
5944 Centre St., S.D. 92103

**SD-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY**  
Meets 3rd Sunday, Floral Bldg., 2:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. William Van Dusen 445-3024  
Star Route, Desereno 92016  
Rep.: Mrs. O. M. Conoly 273-7769  
758 Cordova Ave., San Diego 92107

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY**  
First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.  
Pres.: Frank Fordyce  
2500 Fire Mountain Drive  
Oceanside, Calif. 92054 757-1800  
Rep.: Byron Gees 279-1191  
5094 Mt. La Platta Dr., S.D. 92117

**SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY**  
Second Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. F. H. Richardson 281-9267, 282-2573  
4067 Monroe Ave., S.D. 92116

**SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY**  
Third Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Clarence W. Benson 274-1626  
3640 Crown Point Dr., S.D. 92109  
Rep.: Mrs. Felix White 264-4440  
5282 Imperial Ave., S.D. 92114

**SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
First Wednesday, Floral Building, 10:30 a.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Gerald Dennis  
12218 Rockcrest Rd., Lakeside 443-2253  
Rep.: Mrs. Roland S. Hoyt 296-2757  
2271 Ft. Stockton Dr., S.D. 92103

## **OTHER GARDEN CLUBS**

**ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m.  
Pres.: Miss Myrtle Patterson 224-1572  
4310 Piedmont Dr., S.D. 92107

**BERNARDO BEAUTIFUL & GARDEN CLUB**  
First Wednesday, 130 Seven Oaks Community Center, Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo  
Pres.: Mrs. H. Carl A. Andersen 748-1925  
16715 Cresta Dr., S.D. 92128

**CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB**  
First Friday, VWV Hall, Carlsbad, 1:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Daniel N. Kurily 729-6618  
1430 Forest Ave., Carlsbad 92108

**CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB**  
Pres.: Mrs. Benjamin Tate 420-1700  
44 Second Ave., Chula Vista 92011

**CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO**  
Pres.: Mrs. Raymond E. Smith 488-0830  
Rep.: F. F. Farnell, S.D. 92109

**CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**  
Meets 1st Tuesday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane  
Pres.: Thomas J. Gligorsky 435-1007  
309 1st Coronado 92118

**CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
Third Tuesday, Knights of Columbus Hall,  
3827 43rd St., S.D. 92105, 8 p.m.  
Rep.: Mrs. Charles Williams 284-2317  
4240 46th, S.D. 92115

**CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO**  
Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane, 9:00 a.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Benjamin H. Berry 435-4997  
471 Country Club Lane, Coronado 92118

**DELICADIA GARDEN CLUB**  
First Wednesday, Encinitas Union Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. I. F. Nichols 753-5409  
159 Diana, Leucadia 92046

**DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)**  
Meets 2nd Tuesday, Alt. Pauma Valley and Valley Center 1:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Frances J. Lawson  
P.O. Box 288, Valley Center 92082

**EL CAJON WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)**  
Pres.: Mrs. John Ohlson 444-2753  
655 Bradford Rd., El Cajon 92020

**ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB**  
3rd Tuesday, Veterans Memorial Hall 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Olaf Olsen 745-4449  
Rt. 1 - Box 708 - Escondido 92025

**FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB**  
Last Thursday, Fallbrook Woman's Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.  
V-Pres.: Mrs. Blanche Grist 728-2394  
759 Knoll Park Lane Fallbrook 92028

**GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Monday, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Bldg., University Ave., La Mesa 92041  
Pres.: Mrs. Floyd Swingle 469-1248  
4680 Pomona Ave., La Mesa 92041

**HIPS AND THORNS**  
Meets at Members' Homes Quarterly.  
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938

**IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB**  
3rd Tuesday, Imperial Beach Civic Center, 1:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Walter V. Roberts  
Rep.: Sonora St. Imperial Beach 92032

**LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB**  
3rd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Loy M. Smith 443-3089  
9511 Farmington Dr., Lakeside 92040

**LA MESE WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)**  
3rd Thursday, La Mesa Women's Club, 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Allen W. Carpenter 583-7508  
5169 Ewing, S.D.

**LAS JARDINERAS**  
Third Monday, 10 a.m. Homes of members  
Pres.: Mrs. Joseph Cuddihy  
7857 La Jolla Scenic Dr., La Jolla 92037 453-0171

**LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)**  
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's Club House, 1 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Hal Crow 466-3330  
3850 Quarry Rd., La Mesa

**MISSION GARDEN CLUB**  
Meets First Monday, 8 p.m.  
Barbour Hall, Pershing and University  
Pres.: Vera Elmer 477-5344  
1127E 16th St., National City 92050

**NORTH COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY**  
Meets First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Palomar College  
Pres.: James A. Kirk 748-3870  
15131 Espola Road, Poway

**NORTH COUNTY SHADE PLANT CLUB**  
Second Sat., 1:30 p.m., Seacost Hall, Encinitas  
Pres.: Mrs. M. J. Noy 753-5037  
1579 Caudor St., Encinitas 92024

**O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. John B. Stanton 726-1466  
1888 Avocado Dr., Vista 92083

**PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB**  
Meets second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community Club House, Gresham and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach  
Pres.: Mrs. Edward J. Reemar 488-0609  
170 Agate St., San Diego 92109

**PALOMAR PALM SOCIETY**  
Pres.: Mr. James Specht  
**PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**  
Third Saturday, 1 p.m., Palomar College Foreign Language Building, Room F22  
Pres.: Mrs. Mildred Gregory 724-4986  
339 S. Melrose Dr., Vista 92083

**PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY**  
Meets Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Avocado Inn, 114 Hillside Terrace, Vista  
Pres.: Eugene A. Cooley 753-3571  
932 Crest Drive, Encinitas

**POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**  
2nd Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., Community Church  
Pres.: Mrs. Leo C. Cusick 748-8270  
1338 Frame Rd Pway 92064

**RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Home, 2:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Hubert Larson 756-1926  
P.O. Box 782 Rancho Santa Fe 92067

**SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB**  
Fourth Tuesday, San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive  
Pres.: Mrs. Douglas Oldfield 463-0692  
6372 Lake Levan San Diego

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall - Univ & Pershing, 8 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938  
4444 Arista Dr., S.D. 92103

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY**  
Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at 9295 Harnes Rd., Spring Valley 92077  
Pres.: Mrs. Cleaves Hardin 755-4772  
2626 Coronado Ave., Space 116, Imperial Beach 92223

**SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB**  
Third Wednesday, Seacost Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772  
737 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach 92075

**SAN MARCOS GARDEN CLUB**  
Pres.: Mr. E. C. Pierdner  
1221 San Julian Dr., San Marcos 92069 744-0226

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove  
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Lof 466-7631  
6070 Sarita St., La Mesa 92041

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30  
V-Pres.: Mrs. Winifred Posik 789-0531  
723 E St. Ramona 92046

**SANTÉE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.**  
Pres.: Mrs. Leon Lof 448-0291  
9138 Willow Grove Ave., Santee 92071

**VALLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY**  
Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members  
Pres.: Mrs. Bronson Thompson 726-3622  
16728 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

**VISTA GARDEN CLUB**  
First Friday, Vista Rd. Center 1:00 p.m.  
Pres.: Mrs. Wm. L. Larsen 726-3622  
300 Mar Vista Dr., Vista 92083

**VISTA MESE GARDEN CLUB**  
Second Tuesday, 2 p.m. Family Association Center  
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins 465-0910  
2352 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045



CALIFORNIA GARDEN  
San Diego Floral Association  
Floral Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, Ca. 92101

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

***Do you remember?***



Think back. The Food and Beverage Building in Balboa Park, recently demolished, looked like this in the year 1915. With the ornamentation of the building preserved, San Diegans hopefully look forward to a restoration of an edifice that will not only be a source of aesthetic satisfaction on the outside, but will also serve as a much-needed cultural center, with a sizeable section of the building to be devoted to horticultural interests.

This photo is from the Historical Collection, Title Insurance and Trust Company, San Diego, California. (The building on the left was the Civic Auditorium, destroyed by fire.)